

Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 IO-13 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00

INRE-00 SS-15 SSO-00 NSCE-00 SP-02 PM-05 L-03

/071 W

-----111383 081027Z /14

O 080902Z JUN 78

FM AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1150

INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY DAKAR IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY LOME IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY LUBUMBASHI IMMEDIATE

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN IMMEDIATE

JCS WASHDC IMMEDIATE

SECDEF WASHDC IMMEDIATE

CINCMAC SCOTT AFB IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T LIBREVILLE 1508

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MOPS, CG

SUBJ: AFRICAN AIRLIFT

REF: STATE 143838, (DTG 071413Z JAN 78), USCINCEUR 071310Z JUN 78
(NOTAL)

1. REFTELS INTRODUCE WHOLE NEW ELEMENT INTO QUESTION OF AIR-
LIFT OF AFRICAN TROOPS BY SUGGESTING THAT USG MAY NOT RPT NOT
NOW TRANSPORT AFRICANS TO SHABA, AND INDEED THERE SEEMS BE
SOME QUESTION THAT ANYONE WILL.

2. WE HAVE HITHERTO SEEN NO REPORTING ON RESULTS OF
PARIS MEETING, BUT DEPT SHOULD BE UNDER NO ILLUSIONS THAT
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GABONESE ARE EXPECTING ANYONE BUT US TO PICK THEM UP. PUBLIC
PRONOUNCEMENTS SUCH AS DEPT SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENT OF JUNE 2
(UNINFO 032159Z JUN 78) STATING THAT USG AGREED TO PROVIDE
LOGISTICAL SUPPORT FOR AIRLIFTING AFRICAN TROOPS TO
ZAIRE PLUS OA BROADCAST MORNING JUNE 7 (LIBREVILLE 1486-
NOTAL WHICH CONFIRMED IN WIRELESS FILE) HAVE SERVED TO UNDER-
LINE OUR OWN APPROACH TO GOG UNDER INSTRUCTIONS (WHICH

SUPPORTED SEPARATELY BY FRENCH) FOR REQUEST FROM THEM FOR
US TO PICK THEM UP. NOTHING THAT WE KNOW OF THUS
FAR WOULD SERVE TO INDICATE TO GABONESE ANY OTHER
SCENARIO.

3. IN FINAL ANALYSIS, WE SUPPOSE IT MAKES LITTLE DIFFERENCE
WHO TRANSPORTS WHOM SO LONG AS TROOPS GET THERE. NONETHELESS
IT IS ONE THING FOR US TO COORDINATE LIFT IN EUROPE WITH
FRENCH; IT IS QUITE ANOTHER HERE WHERE GABONESE HAVE NO REAL
APPRECIATION OF US-FRENCY COORDINATION ROLE, ARE LOOKING TO
US TO MOVE THEIR TROOPS, AND INDEED HAVE EXPRESSED SOME PLEAS-
URE AT PROSPECT. GABONESE WERE AGAIN AT AIRPORT LAST NIGHT
READY TO GO DESPITE OUR ENTREATIES TO WAIT UNTIL WE CAN
GIVE THEM PRECISE INFORMATION.

4. I HAVE JUST SEEN ABIDJAN'S EXCELLENT 5426 AND WISH LEND
OUR FULL SUPPORT TO AMBASSADOR STEARN'S, COMMENT. AT
THIS LATE DATE, GABONESE ARE NOT LIKELY UNDERSTAND SWITCH
IN SIGNALS AND WE THEREFORE RISK TARNISHING OUR RELATIONS
AND INDEED REPUTATION (UNNECESSARILY IN OUR JUDGMENT) IF
OFFER TO TRANSPORT THEIR TROOPS MUST BE WITHDRAWN OR
TRANSFERRED TO SOMEWHERE ELSE. TIENKEN

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MILITARY AIRLIFTS, INTERNATIONAL PEACEKEEPING FORCES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 08 jun 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978LIBREV01508
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780239-0598
Format: TEL
From: LIBREVILLE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780682/aaaacsif.tel
Line Count: 84
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 522d408f-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 STATE 143838
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 18 apr 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2440446
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: AFRICAN AIRLIFT
TAGS: MOPS, CG, GB
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odhc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/522d408f-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014